

WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report September 2004

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1. State Aircraft Lands at Okanagon for Runway Inspection

Taking advantage of favorable weather, WSDOT Aviation used the state Cessna 182 aircraft to fly to Okanagon Legion Airport and inspect its recently completed slurry seal pavement project. Within three hours, WSDOT Aviation's Eric Johnson and Stan Allison touched down at Okanagon, inspected the pavement with Airport Manager Bix Rosencranz, and flew back to Arlington. Pleased with the construction, Allison commented, "We are very happy with the slurry seal and paint applications, and they came in \$18,000 under budget."



WSDOT Aviation thanks the many airport volunteers, county public works representatives, and contractors for their hard work on Okanagon's slurry seal project. Okanagon is also planning for its annual crack sealing maintenance work in the spring.

2. National Conference Identifies Strategic Aviation Issues for State Directors

Aviation system preservation was identified as the critical issue of the future at the National Association of State Aviation Official's (NASAO's) 71st Annual Conference and Exhibition in St. Paul, Minnesota. Representing the Northwest Mountain Region, WSDOT Aviation Director John Sibold was invited to speak about Washington State's

Aviation Land Use Program. Sibold also represented NASAO during meetings with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to update federal policy on land use. Prior to a scheduled meeting with the FAA in Washington, D.C. this fall, NASAO has recommended five key areas of discussion:

- Development of best management practices for state aviation land use policies.
- Identification of a new methodology for determining incompatible land uses adjacent to airports.
- Analysis of the use of accident data as a methodology.
- Clarification of jurisdictional responsibility between the FAA and states on land use compatibility.
- Identification of the process for resolving disputes between the FAA and states on land use issues.

Other regions across the nation will submit their topic suggestions to the President of NASAO, who will select the highest priorities for discussion.

3. Flight Instructors Enjoy Free Clinic in Spokane

About 45 flight instructors gathered in Spokane on September 11-12 for a two-day Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) Clinic. Hosted by WSDOT Aviation and taught by Hoffman Pilot Center, Inc., the Spokane CFI Clinic represented one of the last that WSDOT Aviation will offer at no charge. Beginning January 2005 CFIs will pay a \$100 admission fee, which will help WSDOT Aviation recover a portion of the costs associated with hosting the clinics. The last free flight instructor clinic is set for November 6 and 7 in Everett, Washington.



Sullivan Lake State Airport

4. State-owned Airports Wind Down After Busy Summer; Will Remain Open Until First Snow

After a busy summer of flying and firefighting state-owned airports are ready to wind down for the season. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) will keep most of the 16 state-owned airports open until the first snow hits, a departure from the traditional October 1 state airport winter closures. Exceptions include Ranger Creek, scheduled to close on October 15, and

Rogersburg State Airport scheduled to close on November 1. Permit agreements dictate we close these two airports on these dates.

When a state-owned airport closes for the season, WSDOT Aviation will issue a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) and post information at: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation>.

5. Tonasket Pushing to Complete Pavement Overlay Before Winter Hits

What began as a taxiway edge repair project for the Tonasket Airport has now evolved into a full pavement overlay, as suggested by WSDOT Aviation. Along with the taxiway repairs, Tonasket will also repair its transient parking apron to ensure pavement longevity. While WSDOT Aviation recommended that Tonasket design the project during the fall, bid it over the winter, and construct in the spring, the airport is attempting to complete the entire project this fall. WSDOT will only participate in the project if Tonasket agrees to meet the professional design engineering, competitive bidding, and construction administration requirements.

6. Volunteer at a State Airport

For those that missed spring and summer volunteer work parties at state airports, we still need your help. Here are some upcoming opportunities to invest a little time and sweat into improving a state airport:



Stehekin State Airport: October 8 to October 18, volunteers are invited to Stehekin to help complete and test a new irrigation system, seed the runway, remove obstructions, and prepare for winter. If you are interested please contact Steve Smith at (509) 750-2030.

Sullivan Lake State Airport: October 30, the Washington Pilots Association, Deer Park Chapter, will host a clean up and winter preparation party at Sullivan Lake.

For more information about volunteer work parties, please contact State Airports Maintenance Supervisor, Jim Scott, at ScottJ@wsdot.wa.gov

7. Registration Compliance Program Takes Off

With WSDOT Aviation's Registration Compliance Program taking off, more and more aviators are becoming acquainted with the state requirement to register as a general aviation pilot or aircraft owner. After sending registration reminders to Washington aviators, our office was flooded with responses from people interested in registering or applying for exemptions.

In July 2003, the Washington State Legislature directed WSDOT Aviation to issue civil penalties for delinquent pilot and aircraft registration. State aviation registration fees are used to support general aviation programs in Washington State, including Air Search and Rescue, Safety, and Education, and the Local Airport Aid Grant Program. For more information, please go to: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/registration/faq> or contact Registration Program Manager, Fabienne Theberge, at aviation@wsdot.wa.gov.